

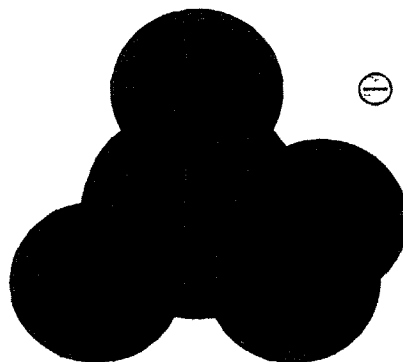


SDMS Doc ID 2013723

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***Perchlorate Environmental Contamination:
Toxicological Review and Risk Characterization***
US EPA Technical Support Project Semi-Annual Meeting
Denver, CO
June 4, 2002

Revised Assessment Highlights and Status
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“The Right Stuff”



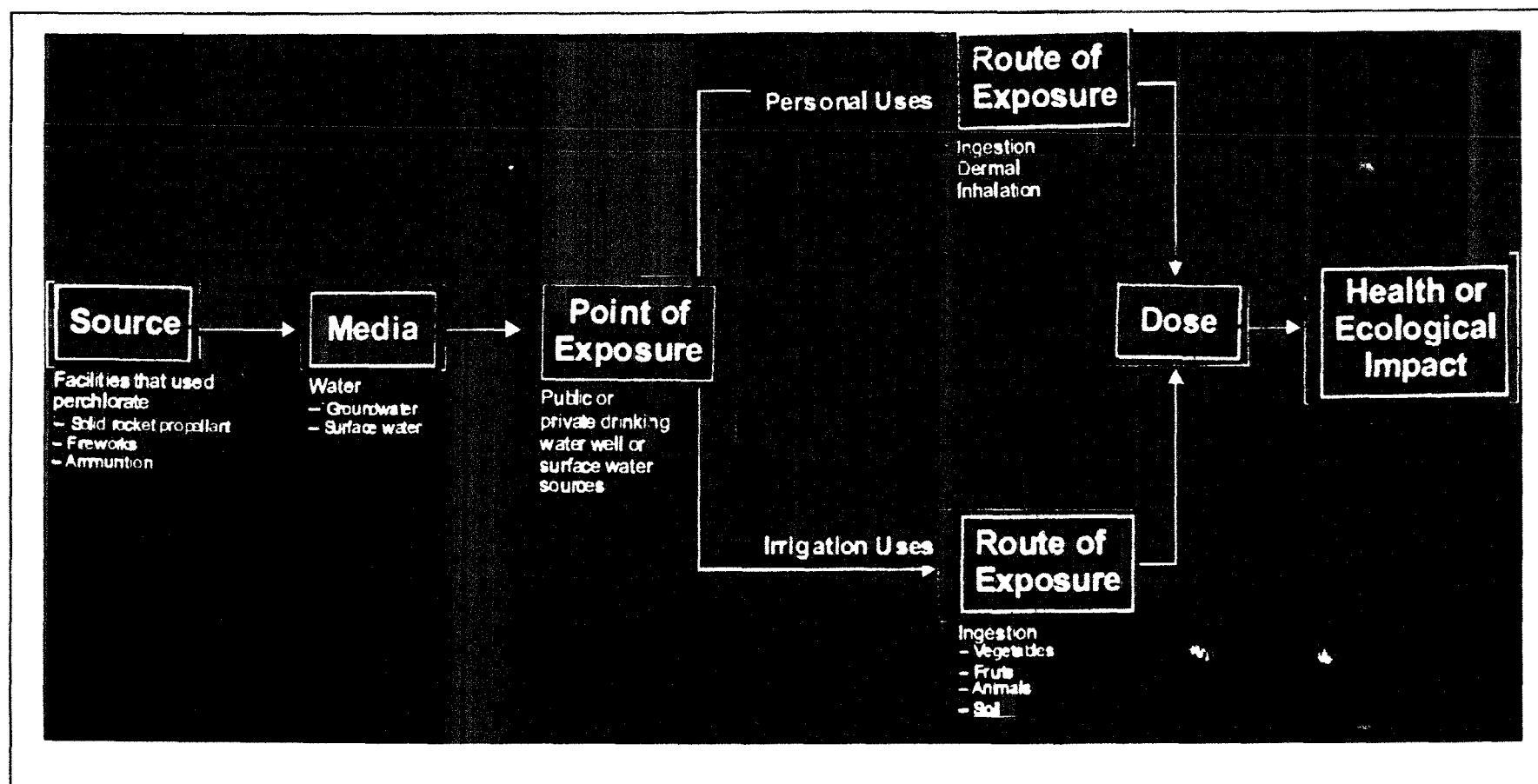
2002 Assessment Overview

- Assessment approach highlights
 - Process
 - 1999 External peer review recommendations
 - Conceptual Mode-of-Action Model
 - New studies and results: March 2002 review
 - Human health
 - Ecotoxicological
- Status: Next steps and emerging concerns
- Summary

Regulatory Readiness

- ORD 1999 interim guidance will stand until new assessment finalized
- CCL Research Priority in All Areas:
 - **Health:** Develop reference dose (RfD) as risk estimate
 - **Analytical:** Method 314.0 for water, extend to other media
 - **Treatment Technology:** Cost and efficacy by end use (e.g., drinking water versus agricultural)
 - **Occurrence/Exposure:** UCMR and other surveys
- Near term: Use “RfD” to develop a health advisory (HA) under SDWA general authority
- Evaluate progress in each area for “go” on maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG)

ORD Goal: Comprehensive Characterization



NCEA: Health and Ecological Risk Assessments

NHEERL: Health Assessment Assistance

NERL: Analytical Methods Development and Exposure

NRMRL: Fertilizer Study and Analytical Methods Development

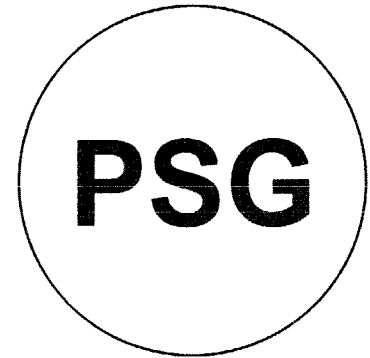
Pro-Active Partnership

- March 1997; Expert peer review of an “RfD” presented by outside group concluded data inadequate for quantitative risk assessment
- Fall 1997; Congress mandated state-of-the-science determination in all areas -- EPA to work with governmental agencies
- January 1998; Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee formed to address all areas
- DOD and PSG partnered with EPA to develop targeted testing strategy based on mode of action for perchlorate: health and eco screen
- Development of health and eco data base with DOD/PSG dollars in 2 years sufficient to support first EPA external peer review

Pro-Active Partnership



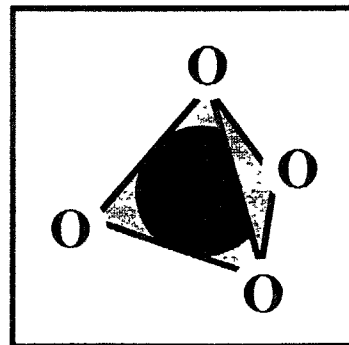
Department of Defense
AFRL
Perchlorate Study Group



ORD
OW
OSWER
Regions



NIHES



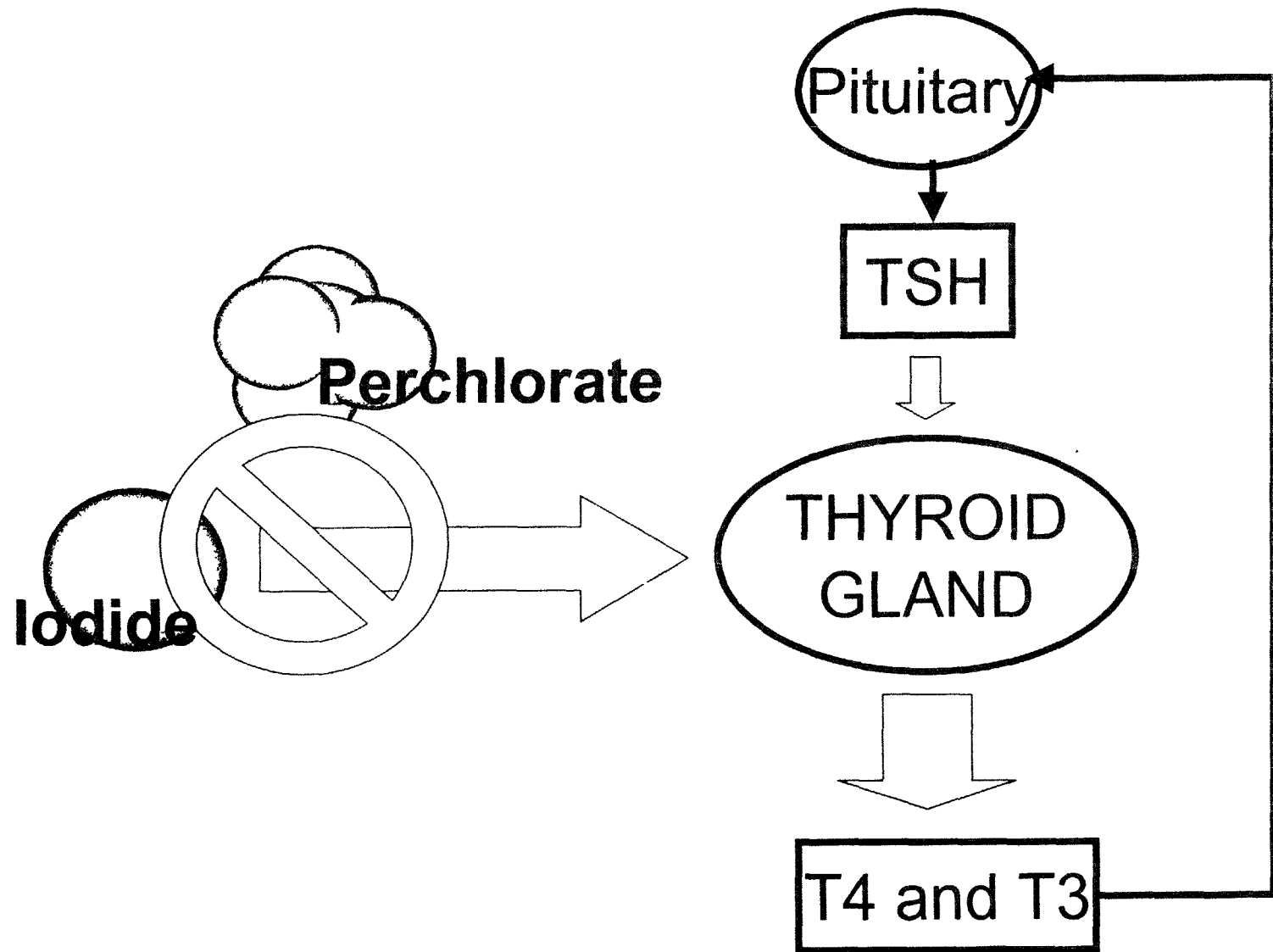
I P S C

Interagency
Perchlorate
Steering
Committee

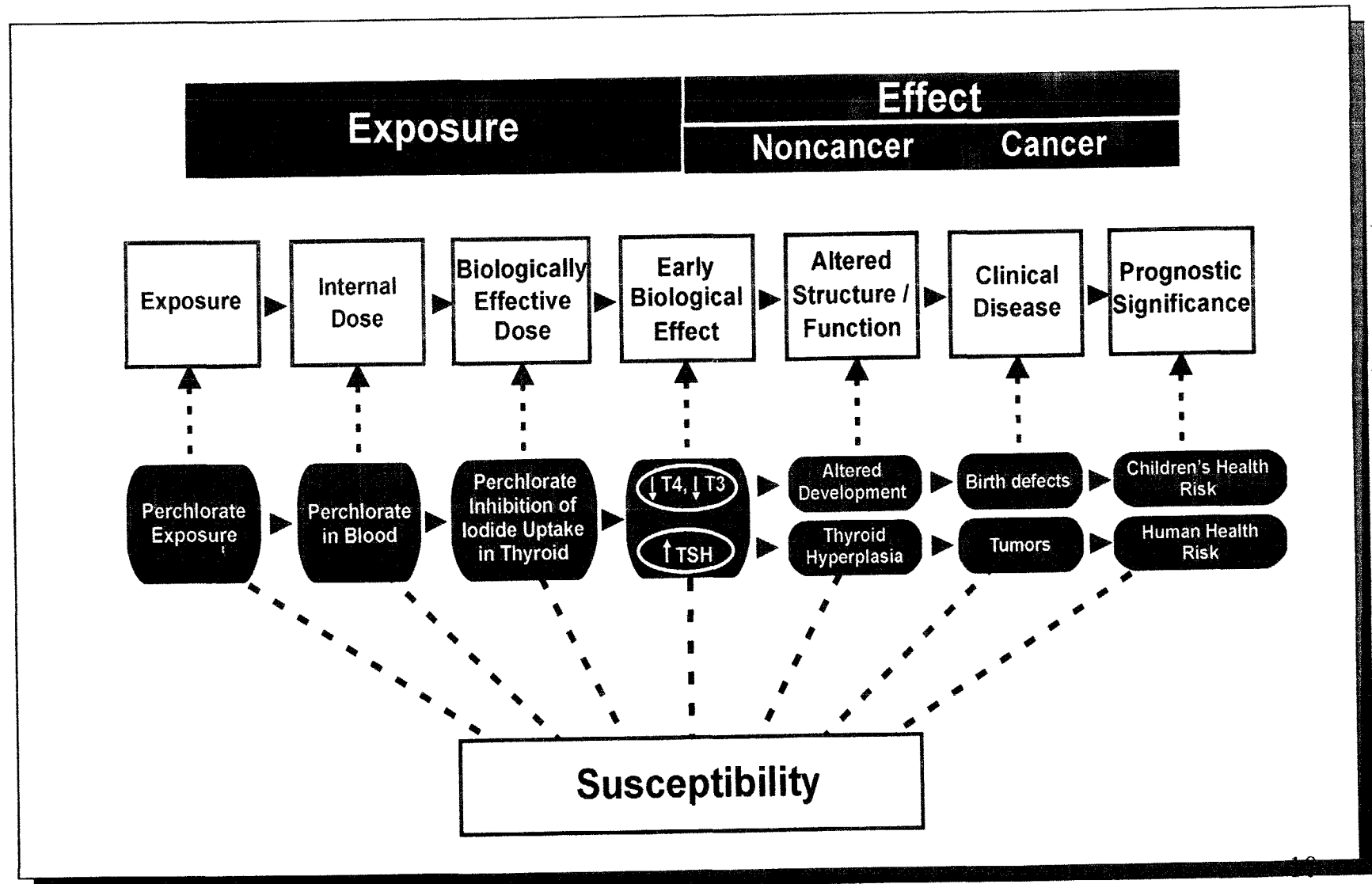
US EPA Assessment Process

- December 1998; NCEA published external peer review draft
- February 1999; Public peer review workshop
- Response to recommendations re: additional studies and analyses
 - New data on neurodevelopmental, thyroid histopathology, neoplasia, immunotoxicology, PK and ecological receptors
 - PWG and NIEHS analyses
- Revised assessment based on recommendations under Agency internal review
 - Expedited CalEPA collaboration for alignment

Perchlorate Mode of Action



Proposed Mode-of-Action Model for Health Risk Assessment of Perchlorate



1999 External Peer Review

- Basis of health assessment
 - Thyroid histopathology in PND5 rat pups
 - Histopathology used as biomarker for adverse hormonal changes *in utero*
- Screening level ecotoxicological assessment
 - Agreed with characterization
 - Identified additional data gaps
- Scientific expert peer findings
 - Concurred with conceptual model and nonlinear approach
 - Supportive of concern for neurodevelopmental
 - Provided recommendations

1999 Peer Review Recommendations

- Evaluate variability in RIA kits across laboratories
- Pathology Working Group of thyroid histopathology
- Additional brain morphometry if material available
- Developmental study in rats
- Repeat motor activity study in rats
- Repeat and additional immunotoxicity studies in mice
- Pharmacokinetic information in humans and rats
- Alternative statistical analyses for hormone data
- Chronic ecotoxicological studies
- Additional ecotoxicological receptors
- Data on transport and transformation

New Studies: Humans

- Observational (ecological) epidemiological studies
 - Not part of testing strategy
 - Limited exposure measures, demographic data, population size and outcome measures
 - Lack of control for confounding
- Clinical studies
 - 3 different laboratories
 - Greer et al. (2000; 2002 - In Press)
 - Lawrence et al. (2000) and (2001)
 - Unpublished data from Drs. H. Leitolf and G. Bravant
 - EPA had limited input on one (Greer et al., 2000; 2002) at outset; designed with intent to provide pharmacokinetic information and not to designate effect levels
 - Those that underwent QA/QC used by AFRL to develop human PBPK model and others to support validation ¹³

EPA Interim Human Study Policy

- Federal agencies adhere to “common rule” guidance that includes informed consent
- Agency has long-standing concern for “third-party” human data
 - Intentional dosing with toxicant to determine effect levels
 - IRB information often unavailable
 - Issue is how to ensure adherence on *post hoc* basis
- Moratorium issued on December 14, 2001 re: use of this type of data **in the future** until the NAS determines criteria for acceptability
 - Human studies were considered and shortcomings noted in assessment
 - Studies not used to determine hazard based on human NOAEL
 - “What if” calculation was provided
 - Human data were used to support the AFRL PBPK model¹⁴

New Studies: Laboratory Animals

- Pathology Working Group (PWG) of previous data
 - Thyroids: colloid depletion, hypertrophy, hyperplasia
 - Brains: Insufficient materials
- AFRL interlaboratory study of RIA kits to measure hormones evaluated across 3 laboratories
- Argus 1999 two-generation reproductive study in rats
- Argus 2000 developmental study in rats
- USN (Bekkedal et al., 2000) motor activity study in rats

New Studies: Laboratory Animals

- “Effects study” protocol in rats (Argus, 2001)
 - Hormones and thyroid histopathology in pups and dams
 - Brain morphometry
- Immunotoxicity study in mice
 - Repeat macrophage phagocytosis
 - Sheep red blood cell (SRBC) assay of humoral immunity
 - Contact hypersensitivity

New Studies: Ecotoxicology & Exposure

- Acute (EA Engineering, 1999)
 - *Selanstrum caprinconutum* 96-hr
- Subchronic ecotoxicity (Block Env. Svcs., 1998)
 - *Pimephales promelas* 7-day
- Chronic ecotoxicity (Block Env. Svcs., Inc., 1998; EA Engineering, 2000)
 - *Pimephales promelas* 35-day Early Life Stage
 - *Hyalella azteca* definitive 28-day study
 - *Ceriodaphnia dubia* 6-day
- FETAX studies
 - Dumont and Bantle, 1998
 - Goleman et al., 2002

New Studies: Ecotoxicology & Exposure

- Six site-specific occurrence & biotransport studies (Parsons Engineering, 2001)
 - Site media
 - Various ecological receptors @ each site
- Phytotransformation and plant uptake studies
 - Nzengung et al., 1999; Nzengung and Wang, 2000
 - Susarla et al., 1999; 2000
- Occurrence & biotransport studies
 - US Army Corps of Engineers (Condike, 2001): fish
 - Smith et al., (2001): water, sediments, vegetation, fish, mice
- Indirect exposure characterizations
 - EPA Fertilizer study with The Fertilizer Institute (US EPA, 2001a,b)
 - Wolfe et al., 1999; Ellington et al., 2001; Urbansky, 2000

Designation of Effect Levels

- Thyroid histopathology
 - Benchmark response @ 10%
 - BMDL used as NOAEL surrogate in RfD derivation
- Thyroid hormones
 - Response level @ 10%
 - Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
- Brain morphometry
 - Repeated measures issue — T-tests inappropriate
 - Profile analysis
 - Multivariate analysis of variance
 - Vector does not require expectation on magnitude or direction
 - Issues on sectioning addressed with restricted analyses
 - PND21
 - Sidedness, normalization, region and level

Designation of Effect Levels

- Motor activity data from Argus 1998 DNT and USN
 - Bayesian hierarchical analysis with linear mixed-effects regression
 - Individual studies and data combined
 - Results indicate effects @ 1 mg/kg-day
- Thyroid tumors in Argus 1999 two-gen study
 - 3 tumors in 2 animals @ 19 weeks in F1 adults
 - Compared to incidence of all thyroid tumors in NTP archives for SD-rats @ 2-year bioassay terminal sacrifice
 - Bayesian analysis
 - Results indicate concern for *in utero* programming
 - Latency
 - Incidence

Point of Departure

- Key event defined as an empirically observable precursor step that is a necessary element or marker for mode of action
- Identified as iodide uptake inhibition @ the Na⁺-Iodide-Symporter (NIS)
 - Reinforced by repeat studies showing neurodevelopmental effects
 - Precursor for thyroid hormone perturbations
 - Allows harmonization in approach to address neurodevelopmental and neoplastic sequelae
- Weight of evidence for 0.01 mg/kg-day LOAEL
 - Thyroid and pituitary hormones
 - Dams on GD21
 - Pups on GD21, PND4 and PND9
 - 14-days and 90-day for T4 and TSH
 - Thyroid histopathology
 - Pups on PND4 in 1998 and 2001 and weanlings in 1999
 - Brain morphometry in pups on PND21

AFRL Dosimetry Model Structures

➤ 4 Model Structures

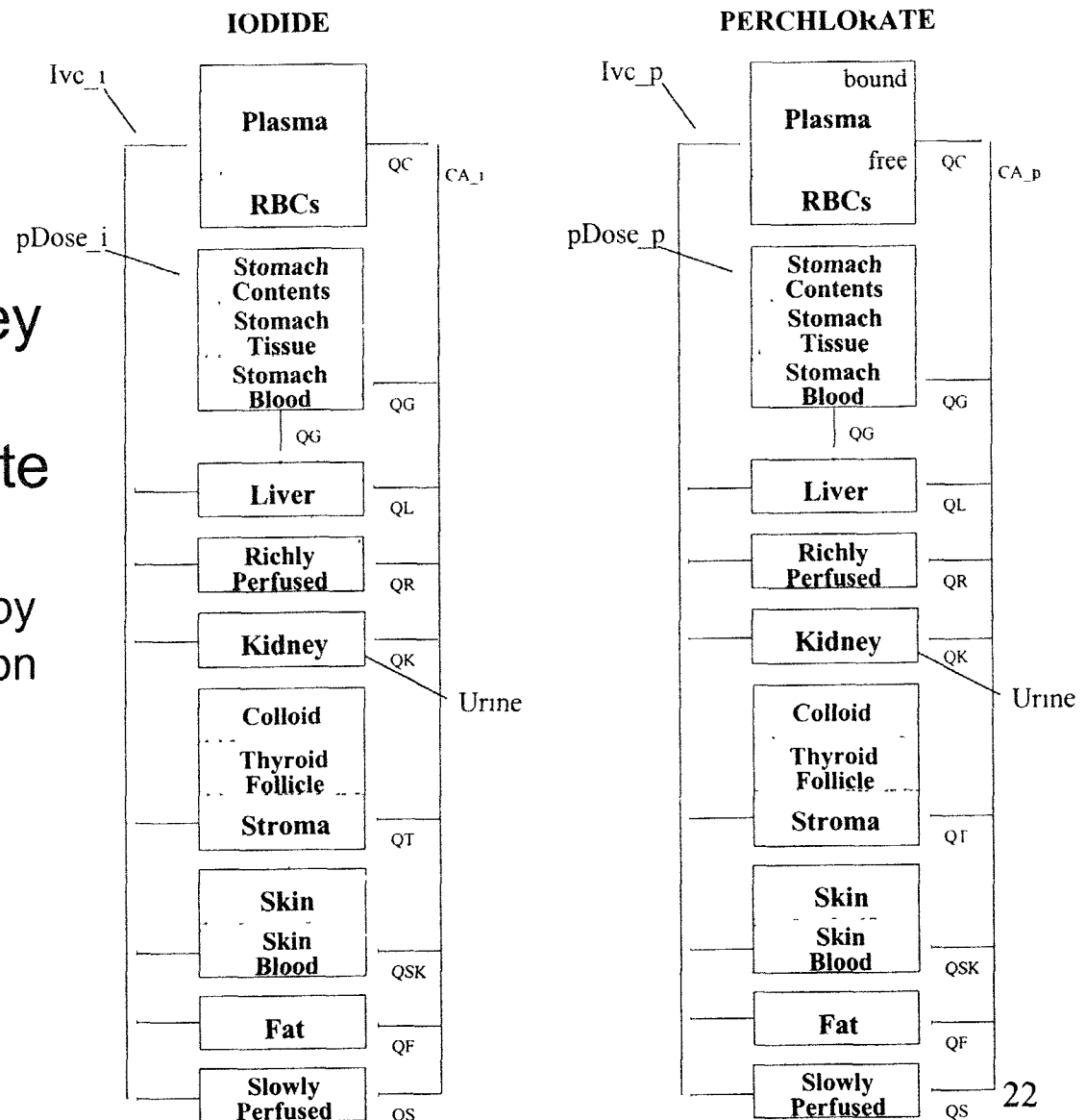
- Adult male rat
- Adult human
- Pregnant rat & fetus
- Lactating rat & fetus

➤ Compartments for key tissues

➤ Iodide and perchlorate disposition

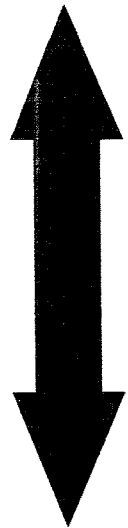
- Active uptake described by Michaelis-Menten saturation
- Permeability areas cross products and partitions
- Passive diffusion
- Plasma binding
- Urinary elimination

➤ Growth



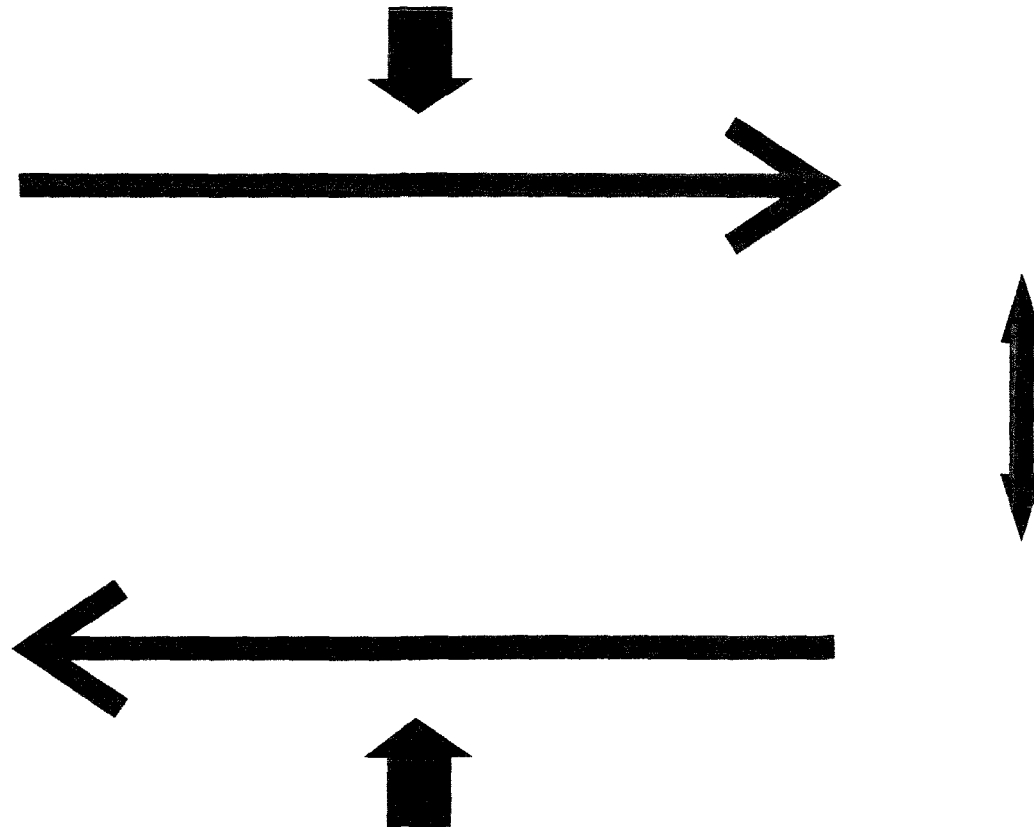
Parallelogram Extrapolation

High
Dose
Doses



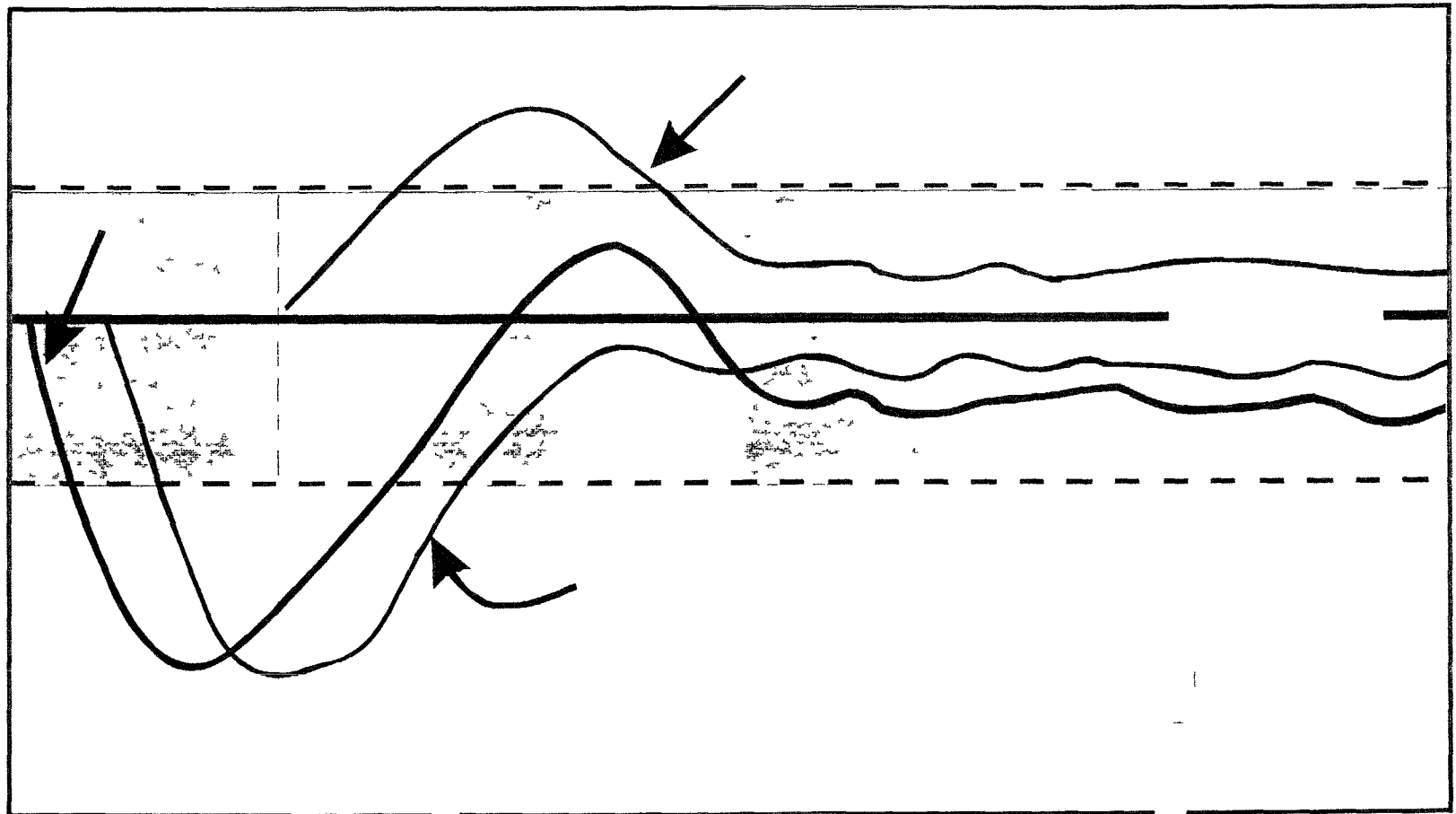
Human Equivalent Exposure

any
at
Model
etc
-day)





Diagnosis



Choice of Dose Metric

- Internal perchlorate concentration as metric associated with key event of iodide inhibition
 - iv data in rats (“acute”)
 - Drinking water in humans
- Area Under the Curve in (AUCB) blood versus peak
 - Good correlation with iodide inhibition
 - Average of serum and thyroid
- EPA agreed with DOD re: uncertainty in and lack of validation of thyroid parameters notably in fetus and neonates for iodide inhibition description
- HEE based on maternal AUC in blood at GD21

Uncertainty Factors

- Composite factor of 300 parceled into components
 - Intrahuman: 3
 - Pharmacokinetic variability
 - Not representative of sensitive populations
 - Interspecies: None
 - PBPK dosimetry model for extrapolation
 - LOAEL to NOAEL: 10
 - Hormones (slope), thyroid histopathology and brain morphometry
 - Interdependence with lack of interspecies and choice of dose metric
 - Subchronic to chronic duration: 3
 - Lack of “womb to tomb” design and *in utero* programming concern — recalibration of HPT feedback system
 - Interdependence with intrahuman factor
 - Database Insufficiencies: 3
 - Concern for immunotoxicity reinforced

Operational Derivation

$$\text{RfD (mg/kg-day)} = 0.01 \times 0.85 \div 300 = 0.00003$$

Where:

- 0.01 is the point of departure
- 0.85 adjusts to perchlorate anion alone
- 300 is the composite uncertainty factor

Comparative Risk Derivations

- “What if” calculation based on human data
 - 0.007 mg/kg-day
 - Uncertainty factor of 100 parceled as:
 - Intrahuman variability: 3
 - LOAEL to NOAEL: 3
 - Subchronic to chronic duration: 3
 - Database insufficiency: 3
 - Result is 0.00007 mg/kg-day
- If a larger UF was applied for intrahuman variability then resultant estimate would be essentially equivalent to that proposed

Comparative Risk Derivations

- Derivation based on tumor precursor lesions
 - Colloid depletion, hypertrophy and hyperplasia all observed @ > 0.3 mg/kg-day
 - BMDL estimates of 0.9, 0.15 and 0.0004 mg/kg-day
 - HEE estimates of 0.45 and 0.02 for colloid depletion and hypertrophy
 - Uncertainty factor of 100 parceled as:
 - Intrahuman variability: 3
 - LOAEL to NOAEL: 3
 - Subchronic to chronic duration: 3
 - Database insufficiency: 3
 - Result is in range of 0.005 to 0.0002 mg/kg-day
 - A larger UF for intrahuman variability would result in 0.002 to 0.00007 mg/kg-day

Hypothetical RfD Conversion

- Critical to distinguish the RfD from any guidance value that may result
- Conversion to drinking water equivalent level (DWEL) in ug/L (ppb):
 - Adjustment by 70 kg and 2 l
 - $DWEL = 1 \text{ ug/l (ppb)}$
- Derivation of maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) typically involves the use of a relative source contribution (RSC) factor to account for non-water sources of exposures
 - Range of 0.2 to 0.8
 - Default @ 0.2 when data are inadequate to determine
 - Result would be MCLG between 0.2 to 0.8 ug/l (ppb)

Now versus Then: RfD

- New studies tested a 10-fold lower dose, repeat studies reinforced neurodevelopmental sequelae, and concern for *in utero* effects emerged
- Provisional range of 0.0001 to 0.0005 mg/kg-day and revised RfD @ 0.00003 mg/kg-day
- RfD is **not a standard**. If convert to drinking water equivalent level (DWEL):
 - Adjustment by 70 kg and 2 L consumption
 - Provisional; 4 to 18 ug/L (ppb)
 - Revised; 1 ug/L
- Convert DWEL by relative source contribution (RSC)[20 to 80%] to MCLG

Ecotoxicological & Exposure

- Screening-level and not definitive
- Exposure issues:
 - Accumulation in terrestrial and aquatic plants
 - Fate in irrigated soils
 - Potential for dietary toxicity to vertebrate herbivores point to need for lower limits of detection in plant and animal tissues
- Effects need determination:
 - Exposure on aquatic plants and noncrustacean invertebrates
 - Dietary exposures in birds and in herbivorous or litter-feeding invertebrates
 - Dietary and cutaneous exposure for adult amphibians and aquatic reptiles

Purpose of IRIS Peer Review

- Provide peer review of protocols, performance, and results reported in studies since 1999 that have not appeared in the open literature
- Provide individual expert comment on EPA external review draft regarding approach, analyses, and inferences used in the human health and ecological risk assessments
 - Panel was **NOT** charged with arriving at a consensus opinion or conclusion
 - Public and observer comments incorporated according to professional judgement of panel
 - Comments related to EPA policy or potential rulemaking are **NOT** relevant to scientific review

Emerging Assessment Concerns

- DOD/PSG expectation was that RfD would increase with additional data -- scale of contamination means considerable cleanup costs
- New epidemiological data, EWG July 2001 report and Cal PIRG raised concern about neuropsychological deficits
- Potential for bioaccumulation and indirect exposures need to be characterized
- Proposed EPA RfD driven by key events/precursor lesions for neurodevelopmental and new concerns for neoplastic sequelae in neonates
- July 2001; CalEPA proposed PHG results in same range

Risk Assessment Status

- Document on web January 18, 2002 with a reference CD available: <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>.
- Public comment period extended until April 5, 2002
- Draft peer review report back to the panel and to the Agency end April 2002
- Final external peer review report end May 2002
 - Posted on the EPA web in June, 2002
 - Agency is responsible to respond to comments and disposition of major comments will be indicated
- Submit revised final draft document to IRIS Agency consensus review in fall 2002
- Final changes in response to Agency review
- Expect IRIS clearance with final document posted to IRIS in late fall 2002 or early 2003

Summary: Unique Attributes

- Pro-active partnership to develop data
- Testing and assessment model motivated by mode of action
- Harmonized approach to noncancer and cancer toxicity based on key event
- Both human and ecological risk assessment of available data
- Evaluation of indirect exposure potential based on stakeholder concerns and to inform relative source contribution (RSC)
- Comprehensive characterization — integrated approach challenging
 - Analytical
 - Occurrence / exposure / transformation & transport
 - Assessment approaches
 - Treatment technology

The Perchlorate Contamination Challenge

Credible Science



Credible Decisions

- Accurate risk characterization
- Appropriate management strategies